

CLAIMS:

1. An apparatus for treating an extremity of a body, the apparatus including a reservoir adapted to contain a liquid, the reservoir wall having a cavity adapted to receive the extremity of the body, wherein the wall of the cavity is at least partially composed of a flexible material.
2. An apparatus according to claim 1 wherein the flexible material is capable of transferring pressure or heat from the liquid to the extremity.
3. An apparatus according to claim 1 or claim 2 wherein the flexible material is substantially impermeable to the liquid.
4. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the flexible material is a sheet-like plastic.
5. An apparatus according to claim 4 wherein the sheet-like plastic is polyvinyl chloride or low density polyethylene.
6. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the flexible material is sailcloth.
7. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 6 wherein the flexible material is resilient.
8. An apparatus according to claim 6 wherein the flexible material is a natural or synthetic rubber.
9. An apparatus according to claim 8 wherein the flexible material is selected from the group consisting nitrile rubber, silicone rubber, fluoro-silicone rubber, butyl rubber, polybutadine rubber, neoprene rubber, hypalon, EPDM, viton, polyurethane, and latex.
10. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 9 wherein the entire cavity is composed of a flexible material.
11. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the cavity is generally cylindrical.
12. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the cavity is substantially sock-shaped.

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13. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the cavity is substantially boot-shaped.
14. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the cavity is substantially glove-shaped or mitten-shaped.
- 5 15. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the cavity has the shape of an elongated glove or mitten.
16. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 10 wherein the cavity has the shape of a pair of trousers.
- 10 17. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 16 wherein the reservoir and cavity forms a sealed vessel such that the liquid is not capable of escape.
18. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 17 including at least one jet capable of propelling the liquid within the vessel.
- 15 19. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the at least one jet is capable of propelling the liquid at a pressure of at least 2 bar.
20. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the at least one jet is capable of propelling the liquid at a pressure of at least 3 bar.
21. An apparatus according to claim 18 wherein the at least one jet is capable of propelling the liquid at a pressure of at least 4 bar.
- 20 22. An apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 21 including at least one secondary reservoir, wherein the reservoir and the at least one secondary reservoir are connected such that the liquid can be interchanged between the reservoir and the at least one secondary reservoir.
- 25 23. An apparatus according to claims 1 to 22 devoid of means for connecting to mains water and/or sewer.
24. A cavity adapted to replace a cavity included in an apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 23.
- 30 25. A cavity adapted for use in retrofitting a hydrotherapy apparatus, the retrofitting being capable of producing an apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 23.

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26. A method for treating an extremity of a body, the method including the use of an apparatus according to any one of claims 1 to 23.
27. A method according to claim 26 including placing a skin care substance or medicament into the cavity or directly onto the extremity.
- 5 28. A method according to claim 26 or claim 27 wherein at least a portion of the extremity of the body is higher than the heart.